

Message Text

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21

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 060926Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2440

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

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FRANKFURT FOR RSS AND CO MSG DETACHMENT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, CASC

SUBJECT: STREET INCIDENT INVOLVING ASSAULT ON OFF-DUTY MSG

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M. ON JULY 4, 1976, A GROUP OF FOUR WESTERNERS INCLUDING AN OFF-DUTY MARINE SECURITY GUARD, SGT. WILLIAM O. BERNALDEZ, WAS ASSAULTED BY A GROUP OF THREE POLISH CITIZENS AT A TAXI STAND ON PRZYMIERZA SQUARE IN THE SASKA KEPA DISTRICT OF WARSAW, NOT FAR FROM THE AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES. SGT. BERNALDEZ AND AN AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE ATTEMPTED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND A DANISH LADY COMPANION AGAINST THE UNPROVOKED ASSAULT. A BRIEF SCUFFLE ENSUED, WHICH WAS BROKEN UP BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE MILITIA (POLICE). THE FOUR WESTERNERS WERE RELEASED AFTER IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES TO THE MILITIA AT A NEARBY MILITIA BOOTH. THE THREE POLISH CITIZENS WERE STILL IN CUSTODY WHEN THE WESTERNERS DEPARTED, BUT THE MILITIA GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LATTER, TOO, WOULD BE RELEASED.

2. SGT. BERNALDEZ' THREE COMPANIONS WERE HIS AMERICAN-CITIZEN COUSIN, MR. JERRY MOTAK OF CALIFORNIA, WHO WAS VISITING WARSAW AS A TOURIST; MR. GARY CARTER, THE DEPENDENT SON OF AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY; AND MISS LISA FREY, A DANISH SUBJECT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY A DANISH DIPLOMATIC

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FAMILY. SGT. BERNALDEZ AND MR. CARTER SUSTAINED CUTS AND

BRUISES; MR. MOTAK AND MISS FREY WERE UNHURT.

3. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. THE THREE ASSAILANTS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY BEFORE THE ENCOUNTER. THE EMBASSY IS SATISFIED THAT SGT. BERNALDEZ AND HIS COMPANIONS BEHAVED IN A PROPER MANNER THROUGHOUT. THEY APPARENTLY DID NOTHING TO PROVOKE THE INCIDENT AND ADOPTED A PURELY DEFENSIVE POSTURE WHEN ASSAULTED, THUS ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE SERIOUS INCIDENT.

4. THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR DELIVERY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TESTING THE INCIDENT AND EXPRESSING THE EXPECTATION THAT THE ASSAILANTS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AND THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE.
DAVIES

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